

Ion Landau damping and drift tearing modes

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Kinetic treatments of drift tearing modes that match an inner, resonant layer solution to an external magnetohydrodynamic (MHD) solution, characterised by Δ' , can fail to match the ideal MHD boundary condition on the parallel electric field, $E_{\parallel} = 0$. In this paper we demonstrate how consideration of ion sound and ion Landau damping effects achieves this, placing the theory on a firm footing. These effects are found to modify the effective critical Δ' for instability of drift tearing modes, in particular for weak electron temperature gradients. The implications for a realistic hot plasma resonant layer model – involving large ion Larmor radius and semi-collisional electron physics (Connor *et al.*, *Plasma Phys. Control. Fusion*, vol. 54, 2012, 035003) – are determined.

Key words: fusion plasma, plasma instabilities

1. Introduction

Tearing modes are driven by current gradients and pressure gradients in the plasma whose destabilising effects are characterised by a quantity Δ' . The associated tearing of a tokamak magnetic field occurs at the resonant radius, $r = r_0$, where $m = nq(r_0)$, m and n are the poloidal and toroidal mode numbers of the helical instability and q is the safety factor. In the vicinity of $r = r_0$ complex kinetic effects can occur and to account for these it is convenient to treat a narrow ‘inner’ region in which these effects are included, but the equations are simplified because of the localised nature of this inner layer. Stability is then determined by matching solutions of these inner equations to outer ones, valid across the regions away from the layer (and satisfying appropriate boundary conditions at the plasma boundary and magnetic axis) where a simple ideal magnetohydrodynamic (MHD) description of the plasma suffices. The solution of the inner equations provides a quantity $\Delta(\omega)$, where ω is the complex mode frequency, while the solution of the outer equations yields the aforementioned quantity Δ' : the matching condition leads to a dispersion relation and a critical value of Δ' for instability.

For a simple resistive MHD model (or even a cold ion model containing electron diamagnetic effects) of the inner region, the corresponding solutions match

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satisfactorily to the outer ones, with the perturbed parallel electric field, E_{\parallel} , vanishing properly as one reaches the outer ideal MHD region. However, for a kinetic or fluid treatment of the ion physics when the ions have finite temperature, so that the effects of finite ion Larmor radius (FLR) and their parallel thermal motion or transport are included, this matching becomes more complex (Coppi *et al.* 1979; Cowley, Kulsrud & Hahm 1986; Fitzpatrick 1989; Connor, Hastie & Zocco 2012). Even though one can match the longitudinal component of the perturbed vector potential, A_{\parallel} , from the inner region to its form in the ideal region, where $A_{\parallel} \propto 1 + (r - r_0)\Delta'$, the expression for E_{\parallel} does not necessarily tend to zero. To accomplish this (i.e. decay of E_{\parallel}) within the matching region, one must consider an intermediate region where ion sound and ion Landau damping become significant at the characteristic frequency of a drift tearing mode (Coppi *et al.* 1979). Consequently, the overall matching condition is modified, with an impact on the stability of the drift tearing mode. The investigation of this effect for the realistic situation in a hot plasma where the ion Larmor orbit width exceeds the reconnecting layer width associated with a semi-collisional electron model, is the subject of this paper. In this work, the intermediate region is described by a cylindrical, collisionless plasma model.

We note in passing that the stabilising effects of ion sound on the ‘drift collisional’ tearing mode were also presented by Bussac *et al.* (1978) and a simple model for the effects of ion Landau damping on the semi-collisional neoclassical drift tearing mode was given by Fitzpatrick (1989), while a more fluid-like treatment of this problem was presented by Connor, Hastie & Helander (2017).

In § 2 we develop the governing equations, namely the vorticity equation and Ampere’s equation, that pertain in the intermediate region. To complete these equations, we solve the collisionless kinetic equations for the perturbed parallel electron and ion currents. We obtain these solutions in § 3 by calculating in the space of the radial coordinate. However, we wish to connect this region to inner region models which feature large ion Larmor radii (as compared to the electron scales of the reconnecting layer). Since such inner region models are better dealt with in Fourier space (Pegoraro & Schep 1986), it is convenient to operate with Fourier transforms of the radially dependent perturbed fields (as in the formalism of Connor *et al.* (2012)), deducing the corresponding real space behaviour from their long-wavelength limit in Fourier transformed variables. The resulting intermediate region solution is then inserted into Ampere’s law in § 4 to calculate the effect of the intermediate region on Δ' .

The results are characterised by a quantity $a = (\omega\tau L_s/2\omega_{*e}L_n)((\omega - \omega_{*e})/(\omega\tau + (1 + \eta_i)\omega_{*e}))$. Here ω is the mode frequency, $\omega_{*j} = mT_j/(e_jBrL_n)$ is the diamagnetic frequency of species j ($j = e, i$ for electrons and ions, respectively), $1/L_n = d(\ln n)/dr$ with n the plasma density, $\eta_j = d(\ln T_j)/d(\ln n)$ with T_j the temperature of species j , $\tau = T_e/T_i$, r is a minor radius of the cylinder and L_s is the magnetic shear length. Since drift tearing modes typically have a real frequency $\omega = \omega_{*e}(1 + \alpha\eta_e)$, where α is $O(1)$ (for the collisionless case, $\alpha = 0.5$ (Drake & Lee 1977; Coppi *et al.* 1979; Cowley *et al.* 1986), while for semi-collisional electrons, $\alpha = 0.74$ (Cowley *et al.* 1986; Connor *et al.* 2012)), a is usually large, but for weak electron temperature gradients it too can become $O(1)$. This is the situation addressed by Coppi *et al.* (1979) and in the present work.

In § 5, we discuss the implications for a realistic hot plasma resonant layer model – involving large ion Larmor radius and semi-collisional electron physics (Cowley *et al.* 1986; Connor *et al.* 2012). In contrast to the calculation in Coppi *et al.* (1979), we now need both real and imaginary parts of the modified Δ' . A final section discusses the results and draws conclusions.

2. Intermediate region plasma model

We consider cylindrical geometry with coordinates r, θ, z and magnetic fields $(0, B_\theta(r), B_z(r))$; the total field strength is B . The perturbed fields of the tearing mode involve the parallel vector potential, A_\parallel , and electrostatic potential, φ , with frequency ω and structure $A_\parallel \sim A(x)e^{-i\omega t + ik_z z - im\theta}$ for example. Here $x = r - r_0$, where the resonant surface, r_0 , is given by $k_z B_z(r_0) - k_\theta B_\theta(r_0) = 0$, with $k_\theta = m/r$, so that the wavenumber parallel to the magnetic field is $k_\parallel = mx/rL_s$, with L_s being the magnetic shear length. In the toroidal geometry of a tokamak, $k_z = n/R$, $L_s = Rq/s$, with R the major radius, $s = rd(\ln q)/dr$ and q the safety factor.

The electrons and ions satisfy the linearised, collisionless, kinetic equation:

$$(\omega - k_\parallel v_\parallel)g_j = (\omega - \omega_{*j}^T) \frac{e_j F_{Mj}}{T_j} J_0 \left(\frac{k_\perp v_\perp}{\omega_{cj}} \right) (\varphi - v_\parallel A_\parallel). \quad (2.1)$$

Here the perturbed electron distribution, δf_j is written $\delta f_j = -(e_j F_{Mj}/T_j)\varphi + g_j$, where F_{Mj} is the Maxwellian distribution for species j , v_\parallel is the parallel velocity and v_\perp the perpendicular velocity, while $\omega_{*j}^T = \omega_{*j}(1 + \eta_j((m_j v^2/2T_j) - 3/2))$, with $v^2 = v_\parallel^2 + v_\perp^2$. J_0 is the Bessel function of zero order with k_\perp , where $k_\perp^2 = k_x^2 + m^2/r^2$, being the wavenumber perpendicular to the magnetic field, and $\omega_{cj} = e_j B/m_j$, with m_j the mass of species j , is the cyclotron frequency for species j .

The stability of tearing modes can be investigated from two equations: the vorticity equation and Ampere's law. The former is obtained by multiplying (2.1) by e_j , integrating over velocity space, summing over the two species, j , and applying the quasi-neutrality condition, $\delta n_e = \delta n_i$. The result is:

$$k_\parallel J_\parallel = \frac{e^2 n \varphi}{T_i} [(1 - \Gamma_0(b))(\omega - \omega_{*i}) - \omega_{*i} \eta_i b (\Gamma_0(b) - \Gamma_1(b))] \equiv \frac{e^2 n \varphi}{T_i} F(b). \quad (2.2)$$

Here $J_\parallel = J_{\parallel,i} + J_{\parallel,e}$ is the perturbed parallel current density, e the proton charge and $\Gamma_l(b) = I_l(b)e^{-b}$, where $b = k_\perp^2 T_i/(m_i \omega_{ci}^2)$, with $I_l(b)$ the modified Bessel functions of order l . Ampere's equation is simply:

$$\frac{d^2 A_\parallel}{dx^2} = -J_\parallel, \quad (2.3)$$

where we ignore the small contribution to the left-hand side from k_θ^2 as $k_\theta^2 x^2 \ll 1$. In general, one must consider several regions in x : (i) the innermost layer, $x \sim \delta_e$, where δ_e is the width of the very narrow region where electron physics such as electron Landau damping or semi-collisional effects play a role in reconnection; (ii) at somewhat larger values of x , namely $x \sim \rho_i > \delta_e$, where $\rho_i = v_{Ti}/\omega_{ci}$, with v_{Ti} the ion thermal velocity, $v_{Ti} = (2T_i/m_i)^{1/2}$, is the ion Larmor radius, one must retain full finite ion Larmor radius (FLR) effects; (iii) the 'intermediate region', $\omega \sim k_\parallel v_{Ti}$, where full ion parallel dynamics operates (ion sound at $x \sim (L_s/L_n)^{1/2} \rho_i$ and ion Landau damping at $x \sim (L_s/L_n) \rho_i$); and finally; (iv) the outer ideal MHD region. These regions are shown schematically in figure 1. Solutions of (2.2) and (2.3) must be matched through all these four regions. In earlier work Connor *et al.* (2012) considered this problem, but omitted the intermediate region required to ensure $E_\parallel \rightarrow 0$ as one approaches the ideal region. We now develop the equations to describe this region.

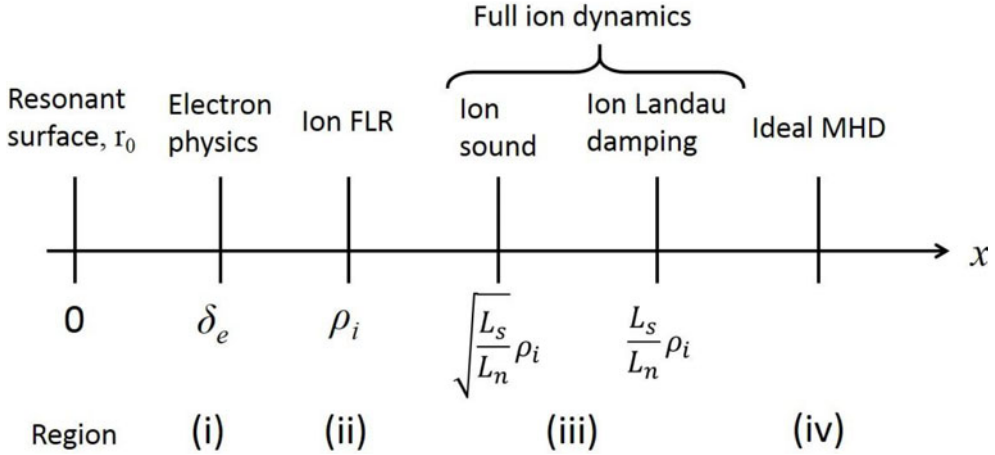


FIGURE 1. The regions in which different physical processes occur as the distance, $x = r - r_0$, from the resonant surface, r_0 , increases: (i) electron reconnecting physics at a scale δ_e ; (ii) ion finite Larmor radius effects at a scale ρ_i ; (iii) full ion parallel dynamics, namely ion sound at a scale $(L_s/L_n)^{1/2}\rho_i$ and ion Landau damping effects at a scale $(L_s/L_n)\rho_i$; and (iv) the outer ideal MHD region.

Expressions for the parallel current densities, $J_{\parallel,e}$ and $J_{\parallel,i}$, valid in the ion sound region and when $b \ll 1$, are derived from solving the respective kinetic equations for electrons and ions, equation (2.1):

$$J_{\parallel,e} = -i \frac{e^2 n E_{\parallel}}{k_{\parallel}^2 T_e} (\omega - \omega_{*e}) \tag{2.4}$$

$$J_{\parallel,i} = -i \frac{e^2 n E_{\parallel}}{k_{\parallel}^2 T_i} \left[(\omega - \omega_{*i})(1 + \zeta_i Z(\zeta_i)) - \omega_{*i} \eta_i \left(\zeta_i^2 (1 + \zeta_i Z(\zeta_i)) - \frac{1}{2} \zeta_i Z(\zeta_i) \right) \right], \tag{2.5}$$

where $E_{\parallel} = -i(k_{\parallel}\phi - \omega A_{\parallel})$, $\zeta_i = \omega L_s / k_{\theta} x v_{Ti}$ and $Z(\zeta_i)$ is the plasma dispersion function. Making use of the long-wavelength approximation, $b \sim |\rho_i^2 d^2/dx^2| \ll 1$, for the ions in (2.2), eliminating $J_{\parallel,e,i}$ and introducing the dimensionless variable, $X = 1/\zeta_i$, so that $X = (2L_n/L_s)(\omega_{*i}/\omega)(x/\rho_i)$, we obtain the following fourth-order system describing the potentials ϕ and A_{\parallel} , replacing the former by $\phi = \varphi/v_{Ti}$ and denoting the latter by A : (so that $E_{\parallel} \propto (X\phi - A)$):

$$X \frac{d^2 A}{dX^2} = \beta_i \left(1 - \frac{\omega_{*i}(1 + \eta_i)}{\omega} \right) \frac{d^2 \phi}{dX^2}, \tag{2.6}$$

and

$$X \frac{d^2 A}{dX^2} = \frac{\beta_e}{2} \left(\frac{L_s \omega_{*i}}{L_n \omega} \right)^2 \left(\phi - \frac{A}{X} \right) \left[1 - \frac{\omega_{*e}}{\omega} + \tau \left(1 - \frac{\omega_{*i}}{\omega} \right) \left(1 + \frac{Z}{X} \right) - \tau \frac{\omega_{*i} \eta_i}{\omega X^2} \left(1 + \frac{Z}{X} - \frac{XZ}{2} \right) \right], \tag{2.7}$$

where $Z = Z(1/X)$ and the β_i are the ratios of plasma to magnetic pressure for each species. These two equations can be combined to yield:

$$\frac{d^2\phi}{dX^2} = Q(X) \left(\phi - \frac{A}{X} \right), \tag{2.8}$$

where

$$Q(X) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{L_s}{L_n} \right)^2 \frac{(\hat{\omega}\tau)^2}{(\hat{\omega}\tau + 1 + \eta_i)} \left[\hat{\omega} - 1 + (\hat{\omega}\tau + 1) \left(1 + \frac{Z}{X} \right) + \eta_i \left(\frac{1}{X^2} + \frac{Z}{X^3} - \frac{Z}{2X} \right) \right], \tag{2.9}$$

with $\hat{\omega} = \omega/\omega_{*e}$. The quantity $Q(X)$ contains the effects of ion sound when $X \ll 1$ and ion Landau damping in the region $X \sim 1$. Introducing the ion sound approximation,

$$Q(X) \approx \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{L_s}{L_n} \right)^2 \frac{(\hat{\omega}\tau)^2}{(\hat{\omega}\tau + 1 + \eta_i)} \left[\hat{\omega} - 1 - (\hat{\omega}\tau + 1 + \eta_i) \frac{X^2}{2} \right]. \tag{2.10}$$

The validity of the ion finite Larmor radius and ion sound expansions requires these terms both to be small so that the balance of terms in (2.8), with $Q(X)$ given by (2.10), implies $\hat{\omega} - 1 \sim \eta_e \sim L_n/L_s < 1$.

We shall find it to be sufficient to consider only the ion sound approximation in order to ensure $E_{\parallel} \rightarrow 0$, the physics of ion Landau damping only playing a conceptual role that justifies the use of the ‘outward carrying energy’ wave boundary conditions, as in the theory of the electron drift wave (Pearlstein & Berk 1969).

Inserting the solution for ϕ into Ampere’s law (2.6) and integrating over X through the ion sound region yields the modification to Δ' arising from the intermediate region (which represents ion sound and, implicitly, ion Landau damping physics and we designate it as such):

$$\Delta'_{ILD} = \frac{1}{A} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx \frac{d^2A}{dX^2} = \frac{1}{\rho_i} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dX}{X} \left[1 + \frac{(1 + \eta_i)}{\hat{\omega}\tau} \right] Q(X) \left(\phi - \frac{A}{X} \right), \tag{2.11}$$

where we have used (2.8).

3. Solution in the intermediate region

At low β_i , equation (2.6) allows us to write $A \equiv \text{const.}$, since A_{\parallel} is an even function of x , which we choose to be unity: $A = 1$. Introducing the following scaled variables:

$$y = \left(\frac{\hat{\omega}\tau L_s}{L_n} \right)^{1/2} X, \quad \hat{\phi} = \left(\frac{\hat{\omega}\tau L_s}{L_n} \right)^{-1/2} \phi, \quad a = \frac{\hat{\omega}\tau L_s}{2L_n} \frac{(\hat{\omega} - 1)}{(\hat{\omega}\tau + 1 + \eta_i)}, \tag{3.1a-c}$$

equation (2.8) can then be written as

$$\frac{d^2}{dy^2} \hat{\phi} + \left(\frac{y^2}{4} - a \right) \hat{\phi} = R(y), \quad R(y) = -\frac{a}{y} + \frac{y}{4}. \tag{3.2a,b}$$

The validity of the ion FLR and ion sound expansions means that (3.2) is only valid on the domain $(L_s/L_n)^{1/2} > y > (L_n/L_s)^{1/2}$, requiring $(L_n/L_s) \ll 1$.

To solve (3.2) we adopt two different techniques, corresponding to the two components of the inhomogeneous term, $R(y)$. For the first term, $R(y) \rightarrow R_1(y) = -a/y$, we employ a Fourier transform for its solution, $\hat{\varphi}_1$. For the second one, $R(y) \rightarrow R_2(y) = y/4$, we generalise a technique due to Basu & Coppi (1977), involving an integral representation of its solution, $\hat{\varphi}_2$.

Introducing the normalisations (3.1), the contribution to (2.11) from the ion sound term in $Q(X)$ becomes:

$$\Delta'_{\text{ILD}} = \frac{\beta_i(\hat{\omega}\tau + 1 + \eta_i)}{\rho_i} \left(\frac{L_s}{L_n \hat{\omega}\tau} \right)^{1/2} \int_0^\infty dy [1 - y\hat{\varphi}(y)]. \tag{3.3}$$

(i) *Solution $\hat{\varphi}_1(y)$*

Fourier transforming equation (3.2) with $R(y) \rightarrow R_1(y) = -a/y$, we obtain an equation for $\tilde{\varphi}_1(k)$:

$$\tilde{\varphi}_1(k) = \int_{-\infty}^\infty dk \exp(iky)\hat{\varphi}_1(y), \tag{3.4}$$

namely

$$\frac{1}{4} \frac{d^2}{dk^2} \tilde{\varphi}_1 + \left(\frac{k^2}{4} + a \right) \tilde{\varphi}_1 = i\pi a \operatorname{sgn}(k), \tag{3.5}$$

where the transform of the right-hand side is given by Pegoraro & Schep (1986), utilising the theory for Fourier transforms of generalised functions (Gel'fand & Shilov 1964).

This can be cast in the canonical form for parabolic cylinder functions by introducing $\kappa = 2k$. The solution of (3.5) can then be written as:

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\varphi}_1(\kappa, a) &= AE(-a, \kappa) + BE^*(-a, \kappa) \\ &+ i\pi a \frac{E(-a, \kappa)}{W} \int_0^\kappa d\kappa' E^*(-a, \kappa') \operatorname{sgn}(\kappa') \\ &- i\pi a \frac{E^*(-a, \kappa)}{W} \int_0^\kappa d\kappa' E(-a, \kappa') \operatorname{sgn}(\kappa'), \end{aligned} \tag{3.6}$$

where $E(-a, \kappa)$ and $E^*(-a, \kappa)$ are the wave-like parabolic cylinder functions (Abramowitz & Stegun 1972), the Wronskian, $W = -2i$ and A and B are constants to be determined by applying appropriate boundary conditions.

The acceptable solution in configuration space (i.e. x -space) is a wave carrying energy outwards from the resonant layer, eventually decaying due to ion Landau damping (Pearlstein & Berk 1969). Since the electron drift wave is a ‘backwards’ wave with group velocity opposed to its phase velocity, this translates into suppressing the wave solution with positive phase velocity in x -space. In k -space this implies suppressing the one with an apparent negative phase velocity, so that

$$B = \frac{i\pi a}{W} \int_0^\infty d\kappa' E(-a, \kappa') \operatorname{sgn}(\kappa'). \tag{3.7}$$

We also require $\hat{\varphi}_1(\kappa, -a)$ to be odd in κ with $\hat{\varphi}_1(0, a) = 0$. This requires

$$A = -\frac{i\pi a E^*(-a, 0)}{WE(-a, 0)} \int_0^\infty d\kappa' E(-a, \kappa') \operatorname{sgn}(\kappa'). \tag{3.8}$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\varphi}_1(\kappa, a) = & \frac{i\pi a}{W} \left[E^*(-a, \kappa) \int_{\kappa}^{\infty} d\kappa' E(-a, \kappa') \text{sgn}(\kappa') \right. \\ & - \frac{E^*(-a, 0)}{E(-a, 0)} E(-a, \kappa) \int_0^{\infty} d\kappa' E(-a, \kappa') \text{sgn}(\kappa') \\ & \left. + E(-a, \kappa) \int_0^{\kappa} d\kappa' E^*(-a, \kappa') \text{sgn}(\kappa') \right]. \end{aligned} \tag{3.9}$$

(ii) *Solution* $\hat{\varphi}_2(y)$

Introducing $z = iy^2/4$ and $\hat{\varphi}_2(y) = u \exp(-z)$ into (3.2) with $R(y) \rightarrow R_2(y) = y/4$, we obtain the equation:

$$z \frac{d^2 u}{dz^2} + \left(\frac{1}{2} - 2z \right) \frac{du}{dz} + \left(-\frac{1}{2} + ia \right) u = -\frac{e^{i\pi/4} z^{1/2} e^z}{2} \tag{3.10}$$

for $u(z)$. Generalising the technique of Basu & Coppi (1977), we introduce the transform:

$$u(z) = z^\beta \int_C dt v(t) e^{zt}, \tag{3.11}$$

where the contour C remains to be chosen for convenience. Inserting the substitution (3.11) in (3.10) leads to

$$\begin{aligned} z^{\beta-1} \int_C dt v(t) e^{zt} \left\{ z^2(t^2 - 2t) + z \left[\left(2\beta + \frac{1}{2} \right) (t - 1) + ia \right] + \beta(\beta - 1) + \beta/2 \right\} \\ = -e^{i\pi/4} z^{1/2} e^z / 2. \end{aligned} \tag{3.12}$$

Choosing $\beta = 1/2$, which eliminates the term independent of z on the right-hand side bracket, equation (3.12) simplifies to

$$\int_C dt v(t) e^{zt} \left\{ z^2(t^2 - 2t) + z \left[\frac{3}{2}(t - 1) + ia \right] \right\} = -e^{i\pi/4} e^z / 2. \tag{3.13}$$

Integrating by parts in t ,

$$\begin{aligned} [v(t) e^{zt} (t^2 - 2t)]_{t_1}^{t_2} \\ - \int_C dt e^{zt} \left\{ \frac{d}{dt} [(t^2 - 2t)v(t)] - \left[\frac{3}{2}(t - 1) + ia \right] v(t) \right\} = -e^{i\pi/4} e^z / 2, \end{aligned} \tag{3.14}$$

where t_1 and t_2 are the endpoints of contour C and are to be chosen later for convenience.

Equation (3.14) is solved if

$$\frac{d}{dt} [(t^2 - 2t)v(t)] - \left[\frac{3}{2}(t - 1) + ia \right] v(t) = 0 \tag{3.15}$$

and

$$[v(t) e^{zt} (t^2 - 2t)]_{t_1}^{t_2} = -e^{i\pi/4} e^z / 2. \tag{3.16}$$

Equation (3.15) is satisfied by:

$$v(t) = \frac{\hat{c}}{t^{1/4+ia/2} (2-t)^{1/4-ia/2}} \tag{3.17}$$

and (3.16) by choosing $t_1 = 0, t_2 = 1$ and the constant $\hat{c} = e^{i\pi/4}/2$. Inserting solution (3.17) into (3.11) for $u(z)$, determines $\hat{\varphi}_2(y) = u(z) \exp(-z)$ with $z = iy^2/4$.

4. The Δ' -integral

Inserting the solution $\hat{\varphi} = \hat{\varphi}_1 + \hat{\varphi}_2$ into (3.3) and integrating over y through the ion sound region yields Δ'_{ILD} , which we can express as

$$\Delta'_{ILD} = \Delta'^{(1)} + \Delta'^{(2)}, \tag{4.1}$$

where

$$\Delta'^{(1)} = \frac{\beta_i(\hat{\omega}\tau + 1 + \eta_i)}{\rho_i} \left(\frac{L_s}{L_n\hat{\omega}\tau} \right)^{1/2} \int_0^\infty dy [1 - y\hat{\varphi}_1(y)] \tag{4.2}$$

and

$$\Delta'^{(2)} = \frac{\beta_i(\hat{\omega}\tau + 1 + \eta_i)}{\rho_i} \left(\frac{L_s}{L_n\hat{\omega}\tau} \right)^{1/2} \int_0^\infty dy [1 - y\hat{\varphi}_2(y)]. \tag{4.3}$$

To evaluate $\Delta'^{(1)}$ we introduce the Fourier transform for $\hat{\varphi}_1(y, a)$, $\tilde{\varphi}_1(k, a)$, perform the integration over y , using the resulting delta function, $\delta(k)$, to reduce the integral to:

$$\Delta'^{(1)} = \frac{\beta_i(\hat{\omega}\tau + 1 + \eta_i)}{2\rho_i} \left(\frac{L_s}{L_n\hat{\omega}\tau} \right)^{1/2} i \frac{d}{dk} \tilde{\varphi}_1(k, a)_{k=0}. \tag{4.4}$$

From (3.9) we have the result:

$$i \frac{d}{dk} \tilde{\varphi}_1(k, a)_{k=0} = -\frac{2a\pi}{E(-a, 0)} \int_0^\infty dk' E(-a, \kappa') \text{sgn}(\kappa'), \quad a > 0. \tag{4.5}$$

As shown in the appendix, equation (A 10), the integral over κ' can be performed analytically to yield:

$$i \frac{d}{dk} \tilde{\varphi}_1(k, a)_{k=0} = -\frac{2\pi e^{i\pi/4} a \Gamma\left(\frac{3}{4} - \frac{ia}{2}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{5}{4} - \frac{ia}{2}\right)} F\left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{4} - \frac{ia}{2}; \frac{5}{4} - \frac{ia}{2}; -1\right). \tag{4.6}$$

Here $F(a, b; c; z)$ is the hypergeometric function and $\Gamma(z)$ the gamma function (Abramowitz & Stegun 1972). Thus:

$$\Delta'^{(1)} = -\frac{\beta_i(\hat{\omega}\tau + 1 + \eta_i)}{2\rho_i} \left(\frac{L_s}{L_n\hat{\omega}\tau} \right)^{1/2} I_0(a), \tag{4.7}$$

with

$$I_0(a) = -\frac{2\pi e^{i\pi/4} a \Gamma\left(\frac{3}{4} - \frac{ia}{2}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{5}{4} - \frac{ia}{2}\right)} F\left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{4} - \frac{ia}{2}; \frac{5}{4} - \frac{ia}{2}; -1\right). \tag{4.8}$$

$I_0(a)$, not to be confused with the modified Bessel function, is displayed in figure 2. Inserting $\hat{\varphi}_2$ into integral (4.3) yields

$$\Delta'^{(2)} = \frac{\beta_i(\hat{\omega}\tau + 1 + \eta_i)}{\rho_i} \left(\frac{L_s}{L_n\hat{\omega}\tau} \right)^{1/2}$$

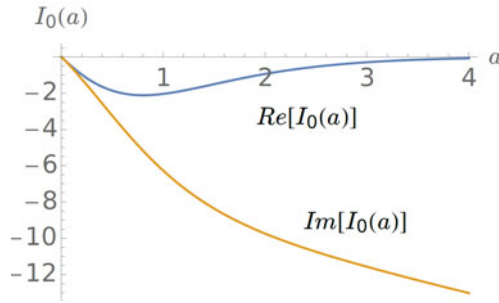


FIGURE 2. The real and imaginary parts of $I_0(a)$ as a function of the parameter $a = (L_s \hat{\omega} \tau / 2L_n)(\hat{\omega} - 1) / (\hat{\omega} \tau + 1 + \eta_i)$.

$$\times \int_0^\infty dy \left[1 - \frac{iy^2}{4} \int_0^1 dt \exp\left(-\frac{iy^2 t}{4}\right) (1-t)^{-1/4-ia/2} (1+t)^{-1/4+ia/2} \right]. \quad (4.9)$$

Using the identity

$$1 = \exp\left(-\frac{iy^2}{4}\right) + \frac{iy^2}{4} \int_0^1 dt \exp\left(-\frac{iy^2 t}{4}\right) \quad (4.10)$$

we can rewrite (4.9) as

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta^{(2)} = & \frac{\beta_i (\hat{\omega} \tau + 1 + \eta_i)}{\rho_i} \left(\frac{L_s}{L_n \hat{\omega} \tau} \right)^{1/2} \left\{ \int_0^\infty dy \exp\left(-\frac{iy^2}{4}\right) \right. \\ & \left. + \int_0^\infty dy \frac{iy^2}{4} \int_0^1 dt \exp\left(-\frac{iy^2 t}{4}\right) [1 - (1-t)^{-1/4-ia/2} (1+t)^{-1/4+ia/2}] \right\}. \quad (4.11) \end{aligned}$$

Now the integration over y can be readily performed to yield:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta^{(2)} = & \sqrt{\pi} e^{-i\pi/4} \frac{\beta_i (\hat{\omega} \tau + 1 + \eta_i)}{\rho_i} \left(\frac{L_s}{L_n \hat{\omega} \tau} \right)^{1/2} \\ & \times \left\{ 1 + \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 dt t^{-3/2} [1 - (1-t)^{-1/4-ia/2} (1+t)^{-1/4+ia/2}] \right\}. \quad (4.12) \end{aligned}$$

Thus, we require the integral

$$\hat{I}(a) = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 dt t^{-3/2} [1 - (1-t)^{-1/4-ia/2} (1+t)^{-1/4+ia/2}]. \quad (4.13)$$

This can be evaluated analytically, as shown in (B9) of appendix B:

$$\hat{I}(a) = -1 + \frac{\sqrt{(2\pi)} \Gamma\left(\frac{3}{4} - \frac{ia}{2}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{ia}{2}\right)}. \quad (4.14)$$

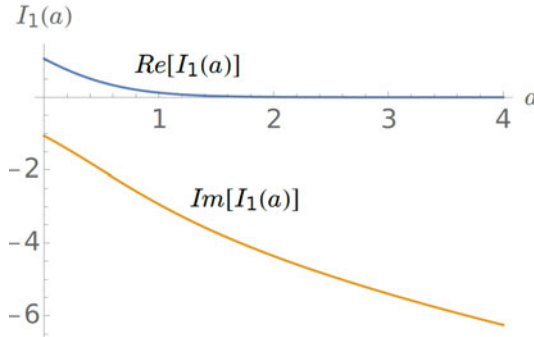


FIGURE 3. The real and imaginary parts of $I_1(a)$ as a function of the parameter $a = (L_s \hat{\omega} \tau / 2L_n)(\hat{\omega} - 1) / (\hat{\omega} \tau + 1 + \eta_i)$.

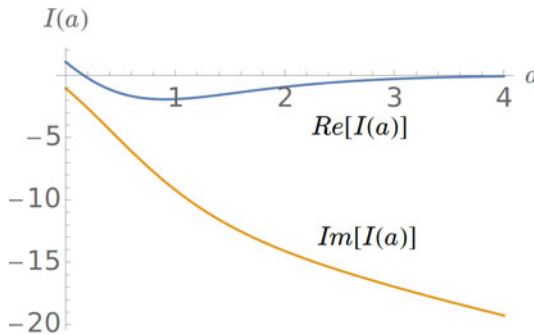


FIGURE 4. The real and imaginary parts of $I(a) = I_0(a) + I_1(a)$ as a function of the parameter $a = (L_s \hat{\omega} \tau / 2L_n)(\hat{\omega} - 1) / (\hat{\omega} \tau + 1 + \eta_i)$.

Thus, from (4.7) and (4.12)–(4.14) we obtain:

$$\Delta'_{ILD} = \frac{\beta_i(\hat{\omega} \tau + 1 + \eta_i)}{2\rho_i} \left(\frac{L_s}{L_n \hat{\omega} \tau} \right)^{1/2} (I_0(a) + I_1(a)), \tag{4.15}$$

where

$$I_1(a) = \sqrt{2}\pi e^{-i\pi/4} \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{3}{4} - \frac{ia}{2}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{ia}{2}\right)}, \tag{4.16}$$

which is evaluated numerically and displayed in figure 3. The combination

$$I(a) = I_0(a) + I_1(a) \tag{4.17}$$

is plotted in figure 4. When $a = 0$, the expression (4.15) reduces to the analytic result for the real part of Δ' quoted in Coppi *et al.* (1979) for the case $\eta_e = 0$.

5. The effective Δ' for stability

The result (4.15) for Δ'_{ILD} , the modification to Δ' due to the ion sound/ion Landau damping physics, can be substituted into expressions in the literature for the drift

tearing mode growth rate at finite ion temperature which have ignored the presence of these effects.

For example, the semi-collisional tearing mode with large ion Larmor orbits in the absence of the ion sound intermediate layer has a growth rate $\hat{\gamma}$ given by $\text{Im}(\delta\hat{\omega})$, where $\hat{\omega} = \hat{\omega}_0 + \delta\hat{\omega}$, and $\delta\hat{\omega}$ satisfies the dispersion relation (Connor *et al.* 2012):

$$\delta\hat{\omega} \sim -\frac{\delta_{sc}\hat{\omega}_0^{1/2}}{\pi\hat{\beta}}e^{-i\pi/4}(\Delta' - \Delta'_{\text{crit}}). \tag{5.1}$$

Here $\hat{\omega}_0 = (1 + 0.74\eta_e)$, $\delta_{sc} = (v_e\rho_eL_s^2/k_0v_{Te}L_n)^{1/2}$, with v_e the electron collision frequency, ρ_e the electron Larmor radius and v_{Te} the electron thermal velocity, is the semi-collisional width ($\delta_{sc} \ll \rho_i$) and

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta'_{\text{crit}} = & \frac{\sqrt{\pi}\hat{\beta}}{\rho_i} \frac{(\hat{\omega}_0 - 1)^2}{\hat{\omega}_0} \left(1 + \hat{\omega}_0\tau - \frac{\eta_i}{2}\right) \ln(\rho_i/(\delta_{sc}\hat{\omega}_0^{1/2})) \\ & - \frac{\pi\hat{\beta}}{\rho_i} \hat{\omega}_0(\hat{\omega}_0 - 1)\bar{I}, \end{aligned} \tag{5.2}$$

with $\hat{\beta} = \beta_e(L_s/L_n)^2/2$. $\bar{I}(\hat{\omega}_0(\eta_e), \eta_i, \tau)$ is an integral that is negative and numerical evaluation shows that it is well represented by $\bar{I} \cong -1.3\eta_e^{1/2}$ (Connor *et al.* 2012).¹ The first contribution to Δ'_{crit} in (5.2) is due to finite ion Larmor radius effects (FLR), while the second term represents diamagnetic effects. The most sensitive dependence of Δ'_{crit} is on η_e .

To introduce the effect of the intermediate ion sound layer, we replace Δ' in (5.1) by $(\Delta' - \Delta'_{\text{ILD}})$. Using (4.15) and (5.1), with the result for $I(a)$ displayed in figure 4, we show Δ'_{eff} , the critical value of Δ' (i.e. the value of Δ' for which the growth rate, as calculated from (5.1), vanishes) as a function of η_e in figure 5, for typical values of the other parameters ($\hat{\beta} = 0.05$, $\delta_{sc}/\rho_i = 10^{-3}$, $\tau = 1$, $\eta_i = 0$, $L_n/L_s = 0.1$). Because Δ'_{ILD} is complex, both its real and imaginary parts contribute to the growth rate in (5.1). We see that the contribution from the ion sound/ion Landau damping layer is less important than those arising from Δ'_{crit} , representing the FLR and diamagnetic terms, except near $\eta_e = 0$ where it remains finite. There it provides a persistent stabilising contribution, unlike the others, which tend to zero.

6. Discussion and conclusions

We have investigated the impact of ion sound and ion Landau damping on the effective tearing mode stability parameter, Δ' , in a hot tokamak plasma. These effects are essential in ensuring the parallel electric field approaches zero as one attempts to match solutions of the inner resonant layer equations to those of the external ideal MHD model. Because the tearing mode frequency is effectively determined by the resonant layer physics and depends on η_e , it transpires that the effect is significant even for weak electron temperature gradients. In this situation one can introduce an intermediate region, between that where the key resonant layer physics lies and the ideal MHD region, where electron drift wave physics dominates (Coppi *et al.* 1979). Indeed, by recalling the ideas of Pearlstein & Berk (1969) one does not need to explicitly consider the ion Landau damping region, replacing it by the boundary

¹We point out that (5.2) corrects an evident misprint in the corresponding equation 42 in Connor *et al.* (2012). The corresponding figure there, figure 4, was, however, correctly calculated.

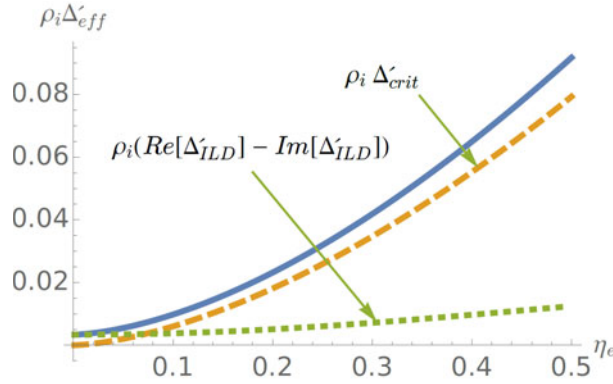


FIGURE 5. The effective critical value of $\Delta'\rho_i$, $\Delta'_{\text{eff}}\rho_i$ (full (blue) line), as a function of η_e for typical values of the other parameters: $\hat{\beta} = 0.05$, $\delta_{sc}/\rho_i = 10^{-3}$, $\tau = 1$, $\eta_i = 0$, $L_n/L_s = 0.1$. Δ'_{crit} is the contribution from FLR and diamagnetic effects (long dashed (brown) line), while $(\text{Re}[\Delta'_{\text{ILD}}] - \text{Im}[\Delta'_{\text{ILD}}])$ is the contribution from the real and imaginary parts of the ion Landau damping terms (dashed (green) line).

condition that the drift waves must only carry energy outwards. Matching solutions through this layer provides a link between the true Δ' and the effective one seen by the inner layer.

The effect of the intermediate layer is parametrised by the quantity $a = (\omega\tau L_s / 2\omega_{*e} L_n)((\omega - \omega_{*e}) / (\omega\tau + (1 + \eta_i)\omega_{*e}))$. Recalling that a good fit to the drift tearing mode frequency is $\hat{\omega}_0 = (1 + 0.74\eta_e)$ (Connor *et al.* 2012), we see that a is indeed essentially a function of η_e and L_s/L_n . However, the validity of the theory requires the electron temperature gradient to be rather weak, with $\eta_e \sim L_n/L_s$, i.e. $L_{Te} \sim L_s$, so that $a \sim 0(1)$ (Coppi *et al.* 1979). Although the effects of the intermediate region increase as η_e increases, a valid treatment for $\eta_e \sim 0(1)$ would require a numerical calculation involving the full effects of ion Larmor radius and ion Landau damping, as the approximations inherent in the simple electron drift wave model, namely the long-wavelength ion Larmor radius and the ion sound expansion, no longer hold.

Given these constraints on η_e , we have applied the results to a realistic hot tokamak plasma model, although in cylindrical geometry, where the ion Larmor orbit exceeds the reconnecting layer width, which itself is described by semi-collisional electron physics (Cowley *et al.* 1986; Connor *et al.* 2012) and compared the stabilising effects from the ion sound/ion Landau damping physics with other stabilising effects, as a function of η_e . The sum of these effects then leads to a critical value, Δ'_{eff} for tearing instability. Although Δ'_{ILD} is generally a less important stabilising term than the FLR and diamagnetic contributions in Δ'_{crit} , it persists as $\eta_e \rightarrow 0$, unlike the others.

The calculation in this paper is only strictly valid for a collisionless plasma slab in a sheared magnetic field geometry, as it only ignores possible curvature, collisional and trapped particle effects. However, these are weak in the range of x ($\rho_i < x < \rho_i L_s/L_n$) that is relevant for the ion dynamics involved in the calculation; it is therefore a meaningful calculation for more general geometries.

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Appendix A. Derivation of (4.6) for $I_0(a)$

This appendix leans heavily on results concerning the confluent hypergeometric functions, the hypergeometric functions and the parabolic cylinder functions, respectively from chaps 13, 15 and 19 of Abramowitz & Stegun (1972).

Firstly $E(-a, z)$ can be related to the usual parabolic cylinder function $D_{ia-1/2}(e^{-i\pi/4}z)$, so that

$$I_0(a) = -2a\pi \int_0^\infty dz D_{ia-1/2}(e^{-i\pi/4}z) / D_{ia-1/2}(0). \tag{A 1}$$

Now $D_{ia-1/2}(e^{-i\pi/4}z)$ itself can be expressed in terms of a confluent hypergeometric function, U :

$$D_{ia-1/2}(e^{-i\pi/4}z) = 2^{(ia/2-1/4)} e^{iz^2/4} U\left(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{ia}{2}, \frac{1}{2}; -\frac{iz^2}{2}\right). \tag{A 2}$$

The confluent hypergeometric function, $U(a, b; x)$, has an integral representation; using this we can write:

$$\begin{aligned} &U\left(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{ia}{2}, \frac{1}{2}; -\frac{iz^2}{2}\right) \\ &= \frac{e^{-iz^2/2}}{\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{ia}{2}\right)} \int_1^\infty dt e^{itz^2/2} (t-1)^{-(ia/2+3/4)} t^{(ia/2-3/4)}. \end{aligned} \tag{A 3}$$

This enables one to perform the integration over z in the numerator of (A 1), which becomes:

$$\frac{2^{(ia/2-1/4)} e^{i\pi/4}}{\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{ia}{2}\right)} \left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right)^{1/2} \int_1^\infty dt (t-1)^{-(ia/2+3/4)} t^{(ia/2-3/4)} (t-1/2)^{-1/2}. \tag{A 4}$$

Finally, introducing $u = 1/t$, result (A 4) becomes

$$\frac{2^{(ia/2-1/4)} e^{i\pi/4}}{\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{ia}{2}\right)} \left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right)^{1/2} \int_0^1 du (1-u)^{-(ia/2+3/4)} (1-u/2)^{-1/2}. \tag{A 5}$$

Now the hypergeometric function, $F(a, b; c; x)$ also has an integral representation and one observes

$$F\left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{4} - \frac{ia}{2}; \frac{5}{4} - \frac{ia}{2}; -1\right) = \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{5}{4} - \frac{ia}{2}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{ia}{2}\right) \Gamma(1)} \int_0^1 dt t^{-(ia/2+3/4)} (1+t)^{-1/2} \tag{A 6}$$

so that, on substituting $t = 1 - u$, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 &F\left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{4} - \frac{ia}{2}; \frac{5}{4} - \frac{ia}{2}; -1\right) \\
 &= \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{5}{4} - \frac{ia}{2}\right)}{\sqrt{2}\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{ia}{2}\right)\Gamma(1)} \int_0^1 du (1-u)^{-(ia/2+3/4)} (1-u/2)^{-1/2}. \tag{A 7}
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, result (A 5) can be rewritten as:

$$\frac{\sqrt{\pi}2^{(ia/2-1/4)}e^{i\pi/4}}{\Gamma\left(\frac{5}{4} - \frac{ia}{2}\right)} F\left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{4} - \frac{ia}{2}; \frac{5}{4} - \frac{ia}{2}; -1\right). \tag{A 8}$$

Concerning the denominator in (A 1), we have:

$$D_{ia-1/2}(0) = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}2^{(ia/2-1/4)}}{\Gamma\left(\frac{3}{4} - \frac{ia}{2}\right)} \tag{A 9}$$

so that, finally, on using properties of the gamma function:

$$I_0(a) = -\frac{2\pi e^{i\pi/4} a \Gamma\left(\frac{3}{4} - \frac{ia}{2}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{5}{4} - \frac{ia}{2}\right)} F\left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{4} - \frac{ia}{2}; \frac{5}{4} - \frac{ia}{2}; -1\right). \tag{A 10}$$

Expression (A 10) provides (4.8) of the main text.

Appendix B. Derivation of (4.14) for $\hat{I}(a)$

We first need to evaluate integral $\hat{I}(a)$ in (4.13). This is integrable because the two terms in the denominator cancel as $t \rightarrow 0$. It is convenient to consider it as the difference of the two diverging integrals:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \hat{I}(a) &= \frac{1}{2} \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \int_{\delta}^1 \frac{dt}{t^{3/2}} - \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{2} \int_{\delta}^1 \frac{dt}{t^{3/2}} (1-t)^{-ia/2-1/4} (1+t)^{ia/2-1/4} \\
 &\equiv J_1(\delta) - J_2(\delta, a). \tag{B 1}
 \end{aligned}$$

The first is readily evaluated:

$$J_1(\delta) = -1 + \frac{1}{\delta^{1/2}}. \tag{B 2}$$

For the second we substitute, $t = 1/(2v + 1)$, to obtain

$$J_2(\delta, a) = 2^{-1/2} \int_0^{\infty} dv v^{-ia/2-1/4} (1+v)^{ia/2-1/4}, \tag{B 3}$$

where $z = (1 - \delta)/2\delta$. Now $J_2(\delta, a)$ can be expressed in terms of the incomplete beta function, $B_{1-2\delta}(3/4 - ia/2, -1/2)$ (see §§ 1.5 and 2.53 of Erdelyi 1953):

$$J_2(\delta, a) = 2^{-1/2} B_{1-2\delta} \left(\frac{3}{4} - \frac{ia}{2}, -\frac{1}{2} \right). \tag{B 4}$$

The incomplete beta function can be expressed in terms of the hypergeometric function, $F(a, b; c; z)$ (Abramowitz & Stegun 1972):

$$B_{1-2\delta} \left(\frac{3}{4} - \frac{ia}{2}, -\frac{1}{2} \right) = \frac{(1 - 2\delta)^{-ia/2+3/4}}{\left(-\frac{ia}{2} + \frac{3}{4} \right)} F \left(\frac{3}{4} - \frac{ia}{2}, \frac{3}{2}; \frac{7}{4} - \frac{ia}{2}; 1 - 2\delta \right). \tag{B 5}$$

A suitable transformation for considering the limit $\delta \rightarrow 0$ is the relation

$$F(a, b; c; z) = \frac{\Gamma(c)\Gamma(c - b - a)}{\Gamma(c - a)\Gamma(c - b)} F(a, b; a + b - c + 1; 1 - z) + (1 - z)^{c-a-b} \frac{\Gamma(c)\Gamma(a + b - c)}{\Gamma(a)\Gamma(b)} F(c - a, c - b; c - a - b + 1; 1 - z), \tag{B 6}$$

where we can then use the result

$$F(a, b; c; 0) = 1 \tag{B 7}$$

(Abramowitz & Stegun 1972) to take the limit $\delta \rightarrow 0$. The result is

$$J_2(\delta, a) = \frac{1}{\delta^{1/2}} - \sqrt{2\pi} \frac{\Gamma \left(\frac{3}{4} - \frac{ia}{2} \right)}{\Gamma \left(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{ia}{2} \right)}. \tag{B 8}$$

Combining with the result (B 2), we obtain

$$\hat{I}(a) = -1 + \sqrt{2\pi} \frac{\Gamma \left(\frac{3}{4} - \frac{ia}{2} \right)}{\Gamma \left(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{ia}{2} \right)}. \tag{B 9}$$

This is the result quoted in (4.14).

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